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Les Çomâlis. Par Gabriel Ferrand. xiv et 284 pp. (No index.) Ernest Leroux, Paris, 1903.

This is the first of a series of volumes which will present "Materials for the Study of Mohammedan Countries." This series is under the editorship of Prof. A. Le Chatelier of the College of France, who is to be congratulated upon opening this collection of studies with a book that so well presents and classifies the existing information about Somaliland. Mr. Ferrand says that the barbarism and fanaticism of the Somalis are responsible for our ignorance of their country in nearly all its aspects. He describes what is known of the physical geography of Somaliland, sketches the history of the people, according to the leading authorities, outlines the explorations of the XIXth Century, and treats of the languages, which are a part of the Ethiopic group of the Hamitic. He then describes the tribes in detail, with separate chapters on their social organization, their music and songs, Christianity and Islam, and the political partition of the country. Perhaps the best summary of information that has appeared on the Mahdi, Mohammed Ben Abdallah (the Mad Mullah)—who he is, what he represents, and the campaigns against him—is found in the 38 pages of the last chapter.

Zwei Jahre unter den Kannibalen der Salomo-Inseln. Von Carl Ribbe. vii und 352 Ss., 3 Karten, 14 Tafeln, Abbildungen und 10 Beilagen. (Index) Herman Beyer, Dresden-Blasewitz, 1903.

Mr. Ribbe is a naturalist who improved the opportunity to spend two years (1894-96) among the islands of the Solomon Archipelago. He made large collections in natural history and studied the natives as far as he was able to do at the white stations along the coasts. He lived most of the time at the Shortland Islands, just south of Bougainville, and his trips along the coasts did not extend farther south than the Central islands of the New Georgia group; thus his attention was confined to the northern third of the archipelago.

He brings no further information about the interior than any of his predecessors, but his large book is one of the most valuable contributions yet made to the knowledge of this archipelago. It is imbued with scientific spirit, abounds with information, and is especially rich in descriptions of the natives. The appendix is devoted to anthropological measurements, and a large number of tracings of facial profiles, hands, and feet are given. Vocabularies collected in various islands are arranged for purposes of comparison.

None of his predecessors gives the islanders a worse reputation than the present writer. He says that no more treacherous peoples exist, and that the white man is not safe for a minute without a revolver at hand. And yet some of the natives buy their potatoes and rice from the whites, and are very glad to sell him their large crops of cocoanuts. They come down to the coast to transact business with the trader in the daytime, and incidentally try to ascertain the position of his bed, hoping to be able to shoot him at night through the wall. The barter trade is very profitable, which is all that keeps the whites along the coasts. Some of them bring their wives and children to the islands, and the women, Mr. Ribbe says, are as brave and wary as the men folk.

No white man ventures inland; the trader keeps to the sea edge, where he dries his coprá and lives among his barter goods. The result is that almost nothing is known accurately of the interior of the islands, and the larger islands are absolutely untraversed. We know something of the topography, because sketches and surveys have been made from the decks of vessels. Such dominating features, however, as